

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/030,095
Amendment dated August 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 4-8 and 10-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 9 are canceled. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 6, 2003.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC112

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-3 and 9 are canceled, claims 10-12 are added, and claims 4-8 are amended. This amendment is only for the purpose of overcoming the rejection under 35 U.S.C.112, second paragraph. Claims 4-8 and 10-12 are believed to be in full compliance with 35 U.S.C.112, second paragraph.

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Claim Rejection - 35 USC102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C.102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,919,326). New claim 10 corresponds to claim 1.

The examiner states that Yokoe et al. discloses a barrier comprising an adhesive having a concentration gradient within the layer and being most concentrated at the outer layer-inner layer interface, since the inner layer is plasma-modified at the interface, thus producing an adhesive (col. 7, line 54 to col. 8. line 29). Contrary to the examiner's statement, the plasma modification disclosed in Yokoe et al. does not produce an inner layer portion having an adhesive component at a concentration different from that in another inner layer portion where the plasma modification is not subjected. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC103

Claims 2-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,919,326).

Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten as new claims 11 and 12, and claim 9 is canceled. Claims 4-8, 11 and 12 depend on claim 10 which is now believed to be in condition for allowance by rebutting the rejection 35 U.S.C.102(b). Thus, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 4-8 and 10-12, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

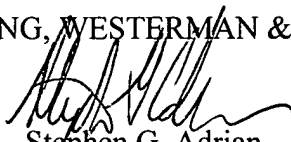
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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